



EXHIBIT A

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 32144183-9

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Kwok On LAI *et al.*

Group Art Unit: 1647

Application No.: 09/157,984

Examiner: R. Hayes

Filed: September 22, 1998

For: CLONING OF A NOVEL
NEUROTROPHIN NT-7 FROM
CARP

DECLARATION OF KWOK ON LAI UNDER 37 C.F.R. & 1.131

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I, Kwok On LAI, declare that:

1. I am a citizen of Hong Kong and reside at 218, Johnston Road, 10/F, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

2. I am a co-inventor with Nancy Yuk-Yu IP of the subject matter claimed in the above-referenced application, which is assigned to The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology located in Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

3. I am making this declaration for the purpose of establishing completion of the invention in this application in Hong Kong at a date prior to March 13, 1998, i.e., prior to the March 13, 1998 publication date of the article, by Ann-Sofie Nilsson *et al.*, "Neurotrophin-7: A Novel Member of the Neurotrophin Family from the Zebrafish," FEBS Letters, 424: 285-290.

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